

## Unusual Landings of Cuttlefish

Trawl nets landed very large quantities of cuttlefish *Sepia pharaonis* with some *Sepia aculeata*, *Sepiella* spp. and *Loligo duvaucelli* at Kakinada during the first fortnight of December. This was reported by Shri C.V. Seshagiri Rao, Senior Technical Assistant at Kakinada. Usually small quantities of 2-4 kg per boat of squids are landed as incidental catches by mechanised boats operating trawl nets. *Sepia pharaonis* is the biggest among cuttlefish with conspicuous dark bands on the dorsal side of the body. Females are more muscular and robust than the males. Individual fish measuring up to 275 mm have been recorded in the above landings. The major part of the bycatch

was from the trawling grounds of *Metapenaeus monoceros* at a depth of 50-60 m north east of Kakinada coast. The fresh *S. pharaonis* were sold at Rs. 13 - 15 per kg and the fillets at Rs. 45 - 50 per kg during the above season.